WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

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CONFERENCE AT INSTITUTE

The W. V. L. A. meeting of 1951 was held at Institute on the occasion of the dedication of W. Va. State college Library, October 19, 1951. The academic gathering at 10 A. M. was addressed by Luther H. Evans, the Librarian of Congress.

Dr. Evans stressed that librarians should be willing to weed their collections of books and discard materials no longer pertinent. Secondly, he warned against following elaborate procedures of cataloging when they serve no useful prupose, and pointed out that the Library of Congress rules and practices are good only when they make sense in a particular library. The rules are not a higher law; smaller libraries require less complicated practices. His remarks were witty telling to those in the profession, and encouraging to those of the general public who heard them. Lastly, he pleaded for the continuance of the strong library tradition of freedom of access to information. He expressed his conviction that people have a right to truth and that the sources of information will be cut off only if people are cowards.

The procession moved to the new library where the doors were opened and the inspection tours started. After lunch, symposiums of the faculty and guests took place simultaneously with library association section meetings. Tea for the librarians and guests provided a restful hour in the attractive faculty lounge of the library.

The dinner meeting of the W.V.L.A. was held that evening, in Glasscock Hall. Members of the Association and the faculty of the College heard Dr. Errett W. McDiarmid, Dean of the Colleges of Art, Science and Literature of the University of Minnesota, and formerly libratian there.

Before the speech of the evening birthday cake with ten candles was presented to the West Virginia Library Commission. It was accepted by Dora Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary, and cut and distributed by Mrs. Oliver Shurtleff, Chairman of the Commission.

After Miss Mary Wattles, President of W. V. L. A. had introduced the people at the speaker's table, Dr. McDiarmid gave a thoughtful discussion of the American heritage. Three characteristics received his attention: the healthy conflict of ideas, the importance of the individual, and the importance of education. All three have been and are fostered by libraries. The meeting closed with a stirring demand by Dr. John W. Davis, President of W. Va. State, that libratians meet their responsibilities to provide free access to truth.

Saturday morning a board meeting was followed by a general meeting and the election of officers. The adoption of the Library Bill of Rights as the Association's own, climaxed two days of meetings where the individual's right to information became the repeated subject of serious consideration. (The Library Bill of rights was originally published in the ALA Bulletin 42:285 (Jl-Ag 1948). Copies may be obtained from Robert North, Jr., Kanawha Cojnty Public Library, Charleston 1.

The Association is indeed sensible of its indebtedness to W. Va. State for being host to the conference. The cordiality of faculty and students made the meeting a delight.

Officers elected October 20, 1951 are: President, Mr. Robert North, Jr.; Vice President, Mr. E. Hugh Bohymer.; Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Quarrier; Treasurer, Miss Rosa Oliver.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SECTION

The Public Library Section of W. V. L. A. in a brief business meeting at 2:30 p. m. Friday afternoon,

October 19, elected Miss Virginia Ebeling, Chairman for the year 1952. The Executive Secretary of the W. Va. Library Commission, Miss Dora Ruth Parks, asked for an expression of sentiment from the group regarding a possible library workshop to be sponsored by the Commission. The group present went on record endorsing the idea, and as being willing to encourage and promote such a training project.

At 3:00 p. m. the members separated into smaller round table groups. Mrs. Madalyn Bradford of the Huntington Public Library was chairman of the group discussing Technical Processes; Mrs. Lawrence Tatterson of the Kanawha County Public Library, chairman of the group on Special Services; Miss Wilma Brown of the Kanawha County Public Library, chairman of the group interested in work with children; and Mr. Harold Harlan, of the State Library Commission, chairman of the group discussing Extension Work.

At 4:15 p. m. all members of the section assembled for a panel discussion of Current Issues in Public Library Administration in W. Va., led by Miss Dora Ruth Parks. Other members of the panel were: Mrs. Madalyn Bradford, and Mr. Robert North, Jr. The chairman of the four round tables joined the panel, and preliminary to the more general discussion summarized the points brought out in their groups. Mrs. Lila Adams, new field worker with the commission, recorded the various points as they were made. Miss Parks and the members of the panel then brought out in their discussion the limitations placed upon libraries in their accomplishments in all these fields and others by the present state laws governing libraries in West Virginia.

COLLEGE LIBRARY SECTION

Mrs. Vivian Boughter presided over the group of twenty-seven members of the College Section of W. V. L. A. which met in the audio-visual rooms of W.Va. State Library, on October 19.

Committee discussions were held on: Faculty Status of College Library Staffs, Recruiting for Librarianship, and the Curriculum for Teacher-Librarians. The latter topic is to be discussed at the library section of the Association of Higher Education in the spring.

The secretary was directed to collect the college library statistics and to mail them to the office of the Clerk of the Senate for publication in The W. Va. Blue Book.

Officers elected for 1952 by acclamation were Mrs. Margaret Bobbitt, Marshall College, chairman; and Virgil Wynne, W. Va. Institute of Technology, secretary.

After the election of officers, Mrs. Boughter introduced the first speaker, Mr. Walter C. Felty, Audio-Visual Director of Marshall College, who discussed the subject of the afternoon: "The College Audio-Visual Program as an independent department."

Mr. Felty stated very clearly why many directors of audio-visual education preferred to be independent of the library. He raised many thought provoking questions such as the financing of the program by the library, with an already overburdened budget and also the trained personnel needed for such specialized service.

Mr. York, Director of the Audio-Visual department of W. Va. University Library, was introduced as the next speaker to discuss the "College Audio-Visual Program: in the library", from the point of view of the Librarian. He pointed out that librarians were well qualified to service audio-visual aids because of the similiarity to library reference work. He explained that the evaluating and selecting of audio-visual materials for circulation and the classifying and housing of these materials is very similar to the methods used for other library materials.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

We plan shortly to publish a membership list, either as a number of W. Va. Libraries, or separately, as a means of keeping the library interests

of the state in touch with each other. The list will probably include those who have been members during the past two years, with an indication of the paid-up memberships. If you have not already done so, please send your check for two dollars for 1951-52 to Miss Rosa Oliver, Librarian, Marshall College, Huntington, and brighten the life of the membership chairman.

WHAT BECAME OF THOSE QUESTIONNAIRES?

From twelve questionnaires returned last year, and seven this year, a number of interesting ideas have been culled; the Executive Board awaits some more returns. In case you have forgotten, the form appears on the last sheet of the conference bulletin.

INVITATION

The President of the Ohio Library Association, Mr. Ernest I. Miller, has suggested that some year the W.V.L.A. and the O.L.A. have a joint meeting in a convenient spot. What does the membership think about this idea? Ohio's plans next year are for Toledo, definitely an inconvenient spot, but the interest of both groups might be stimulated by a meeting together.

FEDERAL LIBRARY BILL

The Library Service Bill, S.1452, was introduced in May by Senator Lister Hill, Alabama, Senator George Aiken, Vermont, and Senator Paul Douglas, Illinois. The bill has been reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. In the House eight identical bills have been introduced, one (H. R. 5311) by Congressman Cleveland M. Bailey of West Virginia. These bills have been referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, of which Graham A. Barden, North Carolina, is chairman.

S. 1452 aims to stimulate state library agency programs for the strengthening of already existing inadequate services and the extension of services to rural people without such service, as each state agency feels could be done most effectively, and to provide means for studying methods of extending library services to rural areas. The bill provides for state agencies to submit plans for the use of federal funds; for an initial allotment of $40,000 to each state and the remainder allotted on a matching basis, according to the rural population, and must be matched on the basis of the state's per capita income to the national income; the U. S. Commissioner of Education must study the values, methods, and results of each state's plan and must make his reports periodically.

The new bill differs from the old Library Demonstration Bill in several ways and is more explicit. There is more freedom of action by the states in the new bill, as they may develop their services as they see fit; the definite five-year time limit; the definite cost to the government ---- $7,500,000 per year; the new bill takes into consideration both the rural population and the state's ability to pay its share; there is a permissive clause which permits expansion of the program as funds and personnel are available.

At this time, it is most important that librarians, lay people, and organizations write to their Congressmen urging support of the bill. The W. Va. Senators are Harley M. Kilgore and Matthew M. Neely. Letters should also be written to Mr. Barden, chairman of the House committee, and to Mr. Bailey, who introduced the bill.

CHARLES E. BUTLER AWARDED FELLOWSHIP

Mr. Charles E. Butler, Librarian of West Virginia University, has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to work on his projected novel about Ireland. He and Mrs. Butler plan to go abroad in June, 1952, and will make Dublin their headquarters. They hope to spend some time in England and to visit France. They expect to be away for a year.

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Cataloging, we admit,
Is work that is extolled by none
Because you never notice it,
Unless it isn't being done.
-Nina Napier-

PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

St. Albans Public Library: A new library is aborning in St. Albans, Kanawha County. After a year of spade work by A.A.U.W. members and others the St. Albans Public Library was incorporated October 23, 1951 as a private organization, with broad public library objectives.

It is negotiating for quarters to refurnish, equip, and ready for business. People are giving their time, cash and work. The Kanawha Public Library has aided with advice; will set up the registration, circulation, and statistical systems to coincide with its own, will supply large deposit collections, and catalog books belonging to the library. It is hoped that in due course the municipality will appropriate funds for the library's operation.

Where large libraries, because of tax limitations, cannot expand their service, smaller localities may be able to do something about it. The handicaps which such small libraries inevitably have, can be partly overcome by friendly and cooperative relations with larger libraries. Those interested in following or contributing to this venture, may write to Mrs. Richard Snyder, 24 Carroll St., St. Albans.

Kanawha County Public Library: Circulation of books was up 7% over last year to 475,425 and the book stock increased 10% to a total of 132,000 volumes. The budget for 1951-52 is $137,973.

The triennially voted special levy for educational funds, over and above normal maximum taxes, was voted in Kanawha County on November 27 by a substantial majority. This measure assures another 3 years of life to the library. About half of its budget is derived from the money raised by this levy. The remainder comes from the general fund of the Kanawha County Schools.

In March 1944 Miss Wilma Brown of Boy's and Birl's Department initiated an exchange of books and friendly letters with the public library in Hendon, England. This friendly interchange has been continuing and received a great deal of interest when Miss Jan Austen of Charleston personally presented some gift books to Hendon library. In November K.C.P.L. received a scarpbook and book from England and are preparing one to send in return.

The Vacation Reading Club of Boys and Girls Department encouraged 526 children to enroll with a total of 6,087 books read. One boy read 365, one girl 328, and 134 read 20 or more books during the past summer.

Mr. Robert North, Jr., Librarian, has written an article on the library for the West Virginia State Magazine for December 1951. The issue is devoted to Kanawha County.

Miss Jane Brand prepared a list of articles and books on wage payment and pension plans for the December issue of Kanawha Commerce, published by the Charleston Chamber of Commerce.

COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWS

West Virginia University: In July 1951 a new addition to the library consisting of five floors extending above the old structure was completed. Four of these are stack levels and one is for public rooms. On this floor are found the periodical, reserve, rare book, documents, and W. Va. reading rooms. Painted in modern shades of green, gray, yellow, and red and lighted by overhead fluorescent lamps, these rooms are bright and cheerful. With these extra rooms the seating capacity of the library has increased by 340 seats.

The rare book room contains the valuable 7,000 piece Dayton book collection. The rarest item in this collection is Shakespeare's First Folio (1623), which is the first printed edition of the author's collected plays. The Third Folio (1664), belonging to Julia Marlowe, has the joint bookplate of this famous actress and her husband. Other first editions include works of Milton, Dickens,

Thackeray, Kipling, Twain, Lowell, Longfellow, Whittier, et. al. One of the most interesting books is the Nuremberg Chronicle (1493), which is an illustrated history of the world from creation to the time it was printed. It is usually cited as one of the finest works of the fifteenth century.

The old periodical and reserve room on the south end of the third floor has ben converted to a general reading room. The open-shelf collection in this room is for student browsing and supplementary reading. Two reader's advisors are there to answer questions and charge books.

The new card catalog is in the reference room. Divided into two sections it stands at one end of the room and holds 864 trays. When full it will hold a million cards for about 400,000 books, the estimated capacity of the library.

Marshall College: The James E. Morrow Library has acquired several first editions of Ohio Valley history for the Rare book collection. The library has purchased also the Folk-lore Record superseded by the Folk-lore Journal, and Folk-lore complete since 1883. With these bound volumes the library has purchased about fifty rare-book publications of the folk-lore society. The Morrow Library has been very fortunate to locate nine volumes of the American Archives, fourth series, beginning with the 1774 issue.

Potomac State: A Science Library was opened November 1, in Potomac State's new Science Hall.. This library includes most of the books in the fields of biological and physical science and engineering. It will be open Monday through Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30 with Miss Patricia Arnold, a student, in charge of the loan desk. It is felt that this new departmental library will give some relief to the desperate need for space in the main library.

West Virginia Institute of Technology: Last December the library of W.V.I.T. decided to try as an experiment the addition of recordings to its collection. Since there was no space for sound proof listening rooms it was decided to buy an earphone phonograph and to place it in the browsing lounge. The idea met with great success. The phonograph has been in almost constant use since the day it was received. The demand is so great in fact that another phonograph has been ordered and will soon be in operation. Recordings in the collection include such subjects as: Light Music, Opera, Musical Comedy, Serious Drama, Poetry, Symphony, and Oratorio.

PERSONNEL EBB AND FLOW

Kanawha County Public Library: Mr. George Williams of the Reference Department was promoted to be head of the department effective December 1, 1951. Mr. Williams came to the library June 1, from Kent State University, Ohio.

On January 1, 1952, Mr. Charles A. Loudermilk, Jr. will join the staff as Reference Assistant, coming directly from taking his Master's Degree at George Peabody Library School, Nashville, Tennessee. He also holds a Master's Degree in Education, and worked in Acquisitions at the University of Georgia Library, Atlanta Division, last year.

Miss Joanne Greenspun joined the Staff of the Extension Department in July. She is a graduate of Wellesley and received her Library Degree from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Mrs. Mary V. Hays resigned in July when her husband was transferred to Washington. She is now cataloging at the Library of Congress.

Two staff members, Mrs. Mabel Pumo and Mrs. Martha Wharton, resigned this summer and are now the proud mothers of baby girls.

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West Virginia Libraries is the Official organ of the West Virginia Library Association. It is published quarterly. Contributions and other communications should be addressed to the appropriate Editorial Assistant.

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Mrs. Robert North Jr., Kanawha County Public Library, Charleston Association News.

Nancy Mathews, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, Public Library News.

Mary Shipper, Potomac State School, Keyser. College Library News.

Hazel Fisher, Thomas Jefferson Junior H. S., Charleston. School Library News.

West Virginia University Library:

Miss Mary Wattles has been appointed head of special collections.

Miss Katherine Creel of the circulation department is new this year. A native of Morgantown and a graduate of Drexel '47, Miss Creel comes to W. V. U. from the Free Public Library of Philadelphia.

Miss Elizabeth Downey has replaced Miss Maryella Durigg as chief of circulation. Miss Durigg, who is now Mrs. James Hitt, went to the Baker Library at Harvard.

Several other new people are on the library staff this year. Miss Barbara Burhans of the reference department comes from Washington, D. C. Mr. Vito Brenni, also of reference comes from New York State where he taught English and Foreign Languages. Mrs. Virginia Perry is a junior librarian doing reader's advisory work in the new general reading room. For several years she was an English instructor at the University. Mr. John Preston (Columbia '49) is in charge of the new general reading room. Mr. Dean Garlow is senior reference librarian. Long a member of the non-professional staff, Miss Ruth Blodgett is now documents librarian. She completed her library degree this summer at University of Kentucky. Her assistant is Miss Sarilda Stump (W. V. U. '51) Mr. Buud Gamboe, formerly chief of audio-visual aids, left in October for Ball State Teachers, Muncie, Indiana. Mr. Robert York (Chicago '48) is now acting chief of that department.

James B. Morrow Library, Marshall College: Miss Helen Schweikart, assistant Reference Librarian was married to Mr. Donald F. Jenkins of Huntington on the 20th of July, in the First Methodist Church of Huntington. Mrs. Jenkins is the daughter of Mrs. Phillip Schweikart of Huntington and Mr. Jenkins is the son of the late Eastham Jenkins and Mrs. Jenkins of Huntington.

Mrs. Ruth Bosworth formerly clerk-typist in the cataloging department is now secretary to Miss Rosa Oliver, head librarian. Miss Ruth Campbell of Milton is now clerk typist replacing Mrs. Bosworth in the cataloging department.

Potomac State School: Mrs. Bill Simmons was appointed assistant librarian of the Potomac State School Library, beginning her duties at the opening of the term in September. She replaced Mrs. Hilda Worley who resigned because of illness. Mrs. Simmons was the former Miss Frances Tuckwiller of Lewisburg. She was married August 11, to Bill Simmons, Farm manager of Potomac State School Farm.

West Virginia State College: The new library at W. Va. State College, has three new staff members to assist Mrs. Leaonead P. Drain, Librarian. Conference members had the pleasure of meeting them. These members were: Miss Muriel Osborne from Fairfield, Alabama, Miss Erma D. McLemore, and Miss Emmy Lou Sleet, New graduates from Atlanta University Library School.

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W. VA. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

MORGANTOWN , W. VA.